

Tomas is currently a Natural Resources Biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He assists with field-sampling for the Maryland Biological Stream Survey, analyzes and interprets samples, and maintains the database that houses this data. Tomas grew up in Southwest Virginia. He studied Fisheries Science at Virginia Tech. He then completed his M.S. at Tennessee Tech University, through a research assistantship that enabled him to perform a field-study focused on enhancing Rainbow Trout fisheries. He earned his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, where he conducted research on the early life history of several species of suckers (the fish), including the Sicklefin Redhorse, an imperiled endemic species. While he was an undergraduate student, Tomas spent his summers working as a technician for the US Forest Service Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer; this job provided Tomas with hands-on training and experience in conducting aquatic research, enabled him to travel to remote places throughout the Southeastern USA, exposed him to diverse issues threatening our ecosystem, and gave him many great memories.